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1852 diary
across the Plains



A Visit to Philip's den

A number of my companions and myself had agreed to visit Philip's den so called from being for a long time the abode of a runaway slave named Philip. Saturday June 14th 1846 was the day at last selected and contemplated with pleasing anticipation so much were our minds occupied with the proposed ramble that we watched every opportunity to get together during the preceding week to talk the subject over and over again. At length the day arrived and early summer morn never ushered in a brighter day and neveriving of bird cut balmy air in short it was as magazine contributors say a delightful day in June &c. But now a new difficulty arose the fineness of the day seemed to inspire every member of the family with the idea of visiting but after some deliberation Lett the coloured woman was prevailed on to stay and help milk and Nancy ever willing to oblige others was to be housekeeper. All matters being satisfactorily arranged Mary E & Annie Thompson and myself were soon equipped in stout calico dresses thick shoes

and pink slab sunbonnets and off we started
for Mr. Montgomery's where we were to be joined
by Mary Montgomery and Anna Goodale. We found
them awaiting us and in a short time we were
all on our way laughing and talking right
merrily. We left the highway and took our
course through fields and meadows decked with ^{flowers}
~~we~~ ourselves as light hearted as the birds which
sung their soft notes among the foliage of the
elms whose branches drooped gracefully over our
heads. At length we came to a ploughed field
and that must be crossed but the mellow soil
formed but a slight obstruction on we went
skipping and laughing at every plunge: when
about half way across I found a horse shoe which
was decided by all to be a lucky omen and
with ^{the} harbinger of good swinging on the end of
my extended finger we trudged on towards the
opposite side of the field where a high stone
wall crossed our way. but country girls think nothing
of scaling a wall so we all mounted it and as soon

dismounted on the other side with the exception of
Anna who was somewhat frightened to find herself so
high and ^{on so} unsettled a foundation however Mary Lib. prompted
by her compassionate nature lent her a helping hand and
all safe over we found ourselves in a pasture in which
flowers grew in profusion as Anna had a microscope we
halted to examine a few of the most curious and then
directed our steps to a grove which Mary Elizabeth who
acted as guide said was in our line of march. Anna
did not much like the prospect of having another wall to
clamber over and I was very much afraid of finding
snakes concealed in the tall grass through which we
were obliged ^{to go} but our companions instead of sympath-
izing only ridiculed so we thought best to endure in
silence what could not be avoided

April 21st 1852

Left Batavia at 9 o'clock A.M. for the distant
Pacific coast Oh that the Lord will watch
over us & bring us in safety to Oregon
the place of our destination The road
almost impassable & in consequence
we only got to St. Ignace before noon
Stopped there & dined & then bade adieu to
the last family of my acquaintance in Batavia
Overtook Francis's team in the P.M. & jogged along over
the muddy roads without any particular trouble
we arrived at Sugar Grove when our team got
sloughed but with the assistance of a part of the
other team went through & all being again righted
we made our way to Mr. Paul's where we stopped
for the night. I lodged in the house the rest in
the wagons. Rained some during the night.
~~cold misty morn.~~

April 22nd very cold for the season froze ice
this morn road better. Halted at Big Rock at noon
in the P.M. road as bad as ever spent the night
at Antelope Rock

April 23 Frosty morn. Spent the day had
no particular interruptions during the ^{day} pitched
our tent for the first time in Chaloney's Grove.
Raining night but found our tent sufficient to
shelter us from the storm.

April 24th Rainy morn. The Batavia Company
passed us shortly after we started. Clouds
passed over during the A.M. & we jogged along
comfortably till noon when we ~~halted~~ ^{halted} at Allen
Grove. Here we traded off one of our cows which
was failing from the fatigue of the journey. Resumed
our journey & journeyed till night when we camped
at Reizen's Grove. It being rainy I lodged in the
Hotel. The rest of the company slept in the wagon.

April 25th Rainy morn. All confusion & altogether
unlike Sabbath morn at home. The men attended a
Mormon meeting Mrs. Francis & myself attended to
the children. I tried to read some but it was amid
much confusion. Baked some biscuit & had supper
at five o'clock. As a whole spent a lonely &
tedious Sabbath. Lodged in the Hotel.

April 26th Breakfasted before sunrise & resumed our journey. Wind blowing a gale from the west roads better so that we reached Lee Centre at noon here we halted & fed. Passed through a beautiful part of the country & camped 4 miles east of Dixon having made 17 miles.

April 27th Cold & frosty ice in our water pan. After some delay decamped & crossed Rock River between 9 & 10 o'clock. Traveled 8 miles before noon & fed at a Dutchman's two miles east of Hirling. Which is a small village with some fine buildings. Camped on a hill in view of Rock river.

April 28th Moon pleasant. Passed over a prairie seven miles in extent in the A.M. Halted & fed at a farmer's two miles E. of Union Grove found an intelligent lady & dressed in the Bloomer costume. Union Grove a small village with some handsome dwellings. Camped for the night seven miles from the Mississippi with a farmer named David Root.

April 29th Cold & windy. The men had some difficulty in settling their bill in consequence of

the aviciousness of the soil but finally all was
amicably arranged & we were again moving on
towards the Father of Waters. As we neared the river
we passed through deep ravines where the flowers of
spring were beginning to bloom & ^{presently} finally the rich bottom
lands appeared. The roads here for three miles were
wet & miry we however had no difficulty in getting
along untill we came to within a mile of the bluff
when a sea of water presented itself the river having
overflowed its banks. This we were obliged to ford
my husband went ahead on horseback Francis's team
follow & next ours the drivers being part of the time
in three feet of water & the water washing our wagon
boxes. My anxiety about my husband prevented my
fears on my own account but after crossing
the first half mile he came to an island & a
guide acquainted with the way coming up he
dismounted & took a seat in the wagon. We
all followed the one acting as guide & at noon
found ourselves again on dry ground where finding
hay for our cattle & hospitable roof to shelter us we
halted fed our cattle partook of our luncheon &

then on for the river which we were to cross in
a ^{flat} boat propelled by horses at few moments delay
gave us an opportunity to see a little of Bolton
city a miserable shabby appearing little town where
public spirit appears to be a mere infant. Soon
the boat was announced in readiness & one team
after another passed over. The river was not
what I expected to see it being only ninety rods
wide being the narrowest place on the river. The
over we put up for the night with
on the Bluffs of the Miss. in a beautiful grove
a few rods from the village of Lyons.

Apr. 30th. Rained some during the night grass
begins to spring up birds are singing & all
nature is animated by the beauty of the moon.
Very windy during the day Roads bad: sloughs
& miry places abound. Camped at Centre
grove & from the appearance of the females
began to think ourselves in Hoosierdom.

May 1st Cold & windy. Passed over an extended
rolling prairies through sloughs & over hills all
the A.M. About noon stopped to water & husband

came in contact with a rattlesnake which
was soon done for by John. I picked the
first violets I have seen this season for Ella
who seemed delighted with them. Camped
about 7 O'clock P.M. in a small grove E. of
Dewitt. During the P.M. washed, baked, cooked
beans & stewed apples besides airing all our
bedding found sufficient work to occupy every
moment of time till after dark P.M. & we
delightful went to bed. fatigued

{ Sunday May 2nd Rained hard with thunder &
lightning during the night. Very rainy & cold
during the A.M. & in consequence of the wind
shifting were obliged to turn our tent so that
the stove could stand in the tent door which
warmed our tent comfortably. Had family
prayer in the eve & retired to rest the second
Sabbath of our wandering life past.

{ Monday May 3rd Pleasant morn. Started about 8 O'clock
& soon arrived at D. where we halted a few
minutes while S. bought some rice. D. a small
town with but little appearance of thrift

Roads tolerable. Not being able to procure
hay we drove our cattle all day without feed
but the P.M. grazed by grazing the Mississippi
about sunset forded by a number of large
rocks from one of which issued a spring of
pure water the source of Shell rock creek
about 8 O'clock P.M. found good hay & camped
for the night amid the darkness had some
trouble in pitching our tent but finally
all were snugly in bed & snoozing soundly
after a long days travel. Having made 24 miles
Wednesday May 4th Set out about 7 O'clock A.M.
cool & windy Roads rather rough & the Shell
rock forded twice Saw a beautiful variety of
the Anemone of a bright purple. Traveled
half of the day over a wide prairie without
inhabitants. Halted at noon fed our cattle
some oats & then partook of our lunch
on the wide prairie of Iowa & then on
for Tipton. P.M. warm & roads rough reached
T. about 3 O'clock camped on the square & spent
the night comfortably Tipton is quite a pretty town
of some 500 inhabitants containing two churches

a courthouse & jail - steam mill several stores
& c. & upon the whole displaying a show of thrift
Wed. May 5th. In consequence of some delays did
not all get under way untill 9 o'clock
Day pleasant. Passed over prairies with now
& then a grove of scattering timber. Fed &
lunched about noon at the house of a farmer
& in the P.M. crossed the Red Cedar river
a beautiful river running swiftly & navigable
for 25 miles above the ferry we crossed. Camped
18 miles E. of Iowa City where we found good
hay for our cattle.

Thursday May 6th. Rained hard during the
night & storm continuing. during the morn
did not set out till 10 o'clock when the
rain ceased. Our tent proved available to
shelter us from the storm & we were more
comfortable than our friends at home would
have thought possible. Roads very muddy &
way through some bad sloughs. One so
bad that we were obliged to join teams to
get through. In the P.M. a hard thunder

shower which flooded the roads & thoroughly
drenched those who drove the teams & were not
provided with oil cloth coats I found his oil
cloth coat serviceable & notwithstanding got so
wet Our wagon covers leaked some but few
of our things were wet except our bedding
Arrived at Iowa city at sunset & halted in
the suburbs while the men went in search of
providence for the cattle Obtained 150 lbs of hay
& returned at dusk. It being so late husband &
myself thought best to take supper & lodging
at a hotel & after dark amid the darkness &
mud made our way 1/2 mile to a hotel kept
by a Dutchman Here we found the Hawley
teams from Batavia supped on fried ham
boiled eggs sour bread & butter & molasses &
retired at 10 o'clock P.M.

Fri. May 7th Husband rose early & went to
the camp. I & Ella breakfasted at the Hotel
& about 10 o'clock John came & carried E.
to the camp & on arriving there found the
bedding clothing &c. which had been wet the

night before out on the bushes drying about
1 o'clock P.M. after reloading & taking our lunch
drove into the city where we purchased some
rice & sugar mailed our letter to Mr. Ann
& then left the city crossed the river drove
five miles out & camped. Turned the cattle
out to grass for the first time.

Sat May 8th Cloudy but mild. Concluded to
lie over till Monday. In the noon prepared
some bread & set it to sponge. Stewed some
apples boiled rice boiled some meat &
then went out & picked a mess of
cowslips which nicely boiled with our
meat by adding a little vinegar made
us a nice addition to our dinner.
After dinner baked bread, pies & a
rice pudding & then on account of
the want of materials or rather intent
to work with found myself tired enough
to seek repose.

Sunday May 9th Morn pleasant. My mind
wanders back to the scenes I have left.

& I long for Sabbath privileges of which I am
now deprived. Tried to read but found my
mind prone to wander. In the P.M. enjoyed
ourselves quite well in singing. Upon the whole had
a comfortable Sabbath. Though deprived of the means
of grace I can look to the source of all enjoyment
& trust he will sustain us in maintaining our
integrity. Day pleasant throughout.
Monday May 10th Rose early & breakfasted & then
set out. During the A.M. passed a large company
from Mich. found good pasture for our cattle
at noon & traveled on pleasantly till night
when we camped ^{on the bank of the highway} ~~at~~ having made a good day
journey.

Tuesday May 11th Day rather pleasant though some
rain fell in the morning. Fell in during the A.M. with
some Wis. teams. Passed them at noon & ^{while feeding} ~~at night~~
they again passed us. The women called on us. One
has left three children at home & is following her
husband to Cal. Made a good days journey &
camped at night on a ~~fifteen mile~~ prairie.

Wednesday 12th Some rain during the night. Cattle went back ~~two~~ miles and a long time was spent in the moon in looking for them. finally found them ^{after much difficulty in catching them} & on we went. I walked a long way & found the weather warm enough for comfort. Passed over some bad roads especially through the groves. Camped at night on a fifteen mile prairie.

Thursday May 13th Rained & blowed furiously during the night. Found the cattle missing in the moon & did not find them till near 10 o'clock A.M. & in consequence only made 17 miles & camped on a high hill where the wind blowed a gale. & made us wish ourselves less elevated.

Friday 14th Blowed & rained in the A.M. & weather cold enough for March. Uncomfortable traveling on account of going against the wind. Passed 14 teams & turned out at noon on the bank of North Squank river. P.M. more ^{passed through a village called Newton} pleasant. Made 20 miles & camped at night in a ravine 3 miles from Squank river. Men watched the cattle all night.

Sat May 15th. Pleasant Started early but were
detained some time at the ferry. Finally the
miserable old scow boat was ready & we were taken
over first our cattle & then the wagon Mrs. F. had
her foot hurt by the colt but it was not as bad
as we apprehended. At ten O'clock we were all
over & again resumed our march. At noon
fed our cattle on the prairie & then on. Weather
fine. As no good place was found at the right
time for camping we were obliged to travel till
near dark & then put up in rather poor quarters
near Elk river, ^{making 23 miles} Very tired & not well (Oh dear)

Sabbath May 16th Cool & cloudy camping place
dirty & unpleasant. Spent the A.M. in tending
Ella. The children were all vaccinated & our
clothing aired & many other things done ill accord-
with the sacredness of the day. Some of Frances's men
seem to hold sacred things in derision & this
makes it very unpleasant to spend our
Sabbaths in their company. Oh may better
Sabbaths dawn upon us ere long.

Mon. May 17th Cold for the season but good weather
for traveling ground frozen & white with frost
this morn. Started early & crossed Elk river a
small stream by a bridge & between 9 & 10 o'clock
found ourselves on the bank of the Des Moines
which we soon crossed by means of a good
ferry boat & then passed through a pretty village
between Des M. & Racoon river they being about
1/2 mile distant & within a short distance below
looked about some for the fort & finally was
pointed to a collection of log huts. Crossed
Racoon river by ferry & jogged on till noon when
we found good grass & fasted our cattle as usual
Day comfortable & after traveling 24 miles camped
near a house in progress of erection by some
Iowa farmer in company with a family from
Cedar Co. I.

Tues May 18th Weather cold traveled through a
broken & yet rather pleasant part of country
Elk quite small & weather very cold & windy
In the P.M. passed through a little village called
Winterset which from its appearance is yet in its

infantry & judging from the number of stores
it already containing 3) must be a place of some
trade. Two elk followed us from here & attracted
attention from all hands. We took in some
fire wood a short distance from here & finding
water camped on the borders of a prairie 24
miles in extent. I baked some biscuit for supper
& we retired early.

Wed May 19 Very cold my fingers ached sadly all the
noon. Fell in with a company from Wis & traveled
all noon when we halted out of sight of shrub
or water & baited. In the P.M. we started ahead
& about 1/2 past 3 o'clock came to Middle River
a small stream which we crossed by a bridge
and then on three miles farther up the river
where we camped having now entered on
a prairie 35 miles in extent.

Thurs May 20th Weather milder. Recrossed the river here
only a mere brook & on over prairie seeming
boundless as the ocean until noon when we
made our usual halt found some water & good
grass. During the night Bigby left us on horseback for the
grass. In the P.M. passed through a grove.

where we took in fire wood & crossed a
small stream running between precipitous
banks & after going some three miles found
an excellent camping place & camped.
The night being cloudy & the rain was
so pleasant so much so that we camped
at McRook. The ground was wet & the rain
continued all the P.M. but we made ourselves
comfortable & slept soundly during the night.

May 23rd Cloudy but the rain having abated we
resumed our journey & but on account of the
mud made rather slow progress. During the P.M.
forded Indian Creek a stream some ten feet wide
& 3 ft deep with steep slippery banks. About
3 miles farther after passing through a grove of
oak & a small strip of prairie another creek
about the same dimensions traveled till
5 o'clock over prairie when seeing a pleasant
grove to the right we made towards it &
camped good water good land & every thing
pleasant concluded to remain here till Mon.

Sun. May 23 Day delightful & all nature woke
in the beauty of Spring In the noon I was
quite sick but before night felt much
better Spent a quiet pleasant Sabbath &
at its close felt better prepared for the
duties of the week

Mon. May 24th Cool for the season Came in
contact with a large tide of emigration
cushing for the bluffs Fell in at night with
Adams, Brown, & Co. & camped near them

Tues. May 25th Cloudy & warmer. Rigby
met us on his return from the river
says there is great work for the river
one anxious to cross first but he thinks
we can cross tomorrow & advises us to
stop some two miles from town that
we may have feed for our cattle Camped
in the A.M. among the hills on the E. side of
Missouri all the evening but John took himself
off to Kaneville & left us to get along as we
could. I churned & boiled some ham but on
account of scarcity of wood & water could not
cook or bake much

Wed. Aug 26th Pleasant morning. Got up our
teams early & drove down into Kaneville.
Passed through a Mormon settlement who are
preparing to leave their homes for Salt Lake.
The scenery around Council Bluffs is quite
wild & rugged the large sand bluffs giving
it some of the features of Eastern scenery.
Kaneville a shabby appearing little ^{town} thronged with
emigrants fitting out for their long journey.
We found provisions selling at a high price but
were fortunate enough to have secured a supply
before coming here. Bought some few articles &
husband purchased a mare & then set out
for the river. Reached the bank of the river
between 9 & 10 o'clock & found a throng
of teams ahead of us. But little prospect of
a speedy passage over but thought best to draw
up our wagons in line & wait our turn. Turned
our cattle out to pasture a half mile from the ferry
& passed away the time as best we could. I wrote
a letter home & one to Mary Ann which took up my
leisure time. Night found us waiting for our turn to go
amid a multitude of emigrants. Thought best to sleep in
the wagons as we had pitched our tent.

Thursday May 27th Morning pleasant. Found that
one of the ferry boats had been loosed from her
moorings & had gone downstream quite a poor
prospect of leaving the States. Concluded to wait
till some arrangement could be made
& as they commenced work with the remaining
boat we hoped to get over during the day. Were
all landed safely over before sunset tired enough
of being delayed on the hot sandy beach &
taking a last look for a long time &
perhaps forever at civilization drove out into
the wild. As the last rays of the setting sun
came gleaming through the grove a sort of sad
indiscribable feeling stole over me & had I not
felt that God would protect I doubtless would have
given vent to my pent up feelings in a flood of
tears. We drove three miles & camped at the
head of a beautiful lake & as the shades of
even were gathering round stationed our guard
& many & sick I retired to rest.

Fri. May 28th Morning five broke up camp & set out early on our long journey across the plains. Passed during the afternoon the site of an Indian village now removed & shortly after their burying ground. Had a pleasant day's journey & camped at night a 1/2 mile from the road by a fine spring of water. Some men who had lost their company dropped with us & remained in our camp till morn.

Sat May 29th Cloudy & some rain in the A.M. Clear & hot in the P.M. One mare ran off during the night & John after going 10 miles found her & brought her back overtaking us soon after we had got in the road. Passed several teams & arrived at the Colkhorn before noon. Swam our cattle & ferried our wagons over & by 4 o'clock was ready to start from the river. Drove out to feed for the cattle & halted. Traveled in the P.M. with some Norwegians. Passed throngs of Indians & at night camped on the bank of Platt river.

Sun. May 30th Cloudy After some consultations
concluded to remain in camp during the
sabbath. Spent a pleasant & profitable day far
from home & Christian privileges & felt
that prayer prevailed here as well as in
the worshipping assemblies at manassett
from Iowa but formerly from Montgomery
Orange Co. N.Y. called at our camp.

Mon. May 31st Set out early & fell in company
with several large companies making in
all quite a crowd. Our way lay along the
river through a beautiful section of country.
Reached at noon & fed in the verdant
meadows of the far West on the bank of
the Platt. In the P.M. fell in company
with some Wm. teams & camped with them at
night on the river bank nearly opposite a
Pawnee Village. Several Indians came to our
camp. One of them coming too near our
dogs received a bite on each leg which excited
them in somewhat but peace was restored by
presenting an old coat bearing some trouble we
thought best to conceal our wares & set a strict watch
on the night.

3 Tues. June 1st Crossed Shell creek quite early in
the morn. feared some trouble with the Indians
but was not molested. Some of the men
thought they saw a herd of buffalo but on
approaching a glass they proved to be prong made
a good days journey & camped on the Platt. I
did a large washing during the eve & retired weary.

Wed. June 2nd Arrived at the Loup Fork at 8 o'clock
A.M. but part of the company preferring the other
they went there so that our team was now separated.
Husband & some others went on horseback to examine
the fords but not thinking them safe concluded
to wait our turn to cross at the ferry. The cattle
swam the river & though the boat was a leaky
old thing yet it carried us safely over & at
4 o'clock P.M. we in company with a Mr.
company were en. march westward camped
on the river bank 4 or five miles from the
ferry & with all expedition prepared
for the night as a shower was near
& had scarcely all in time before it came in
torrents wind & rain.

Thurs. June 3^d Rained & blowed all night, our wagon cover leaked some consequently as we lodged in our wagon we had a wet bath. Got rather a late start as the morn was cold & damp were not in a hurry to travel on with Capt. Day's company. Saw elk during the A.M. but were not able to secure one. At noon halted near the river beside a slough laid out our wet clothes to dry & partook of our lunch. Some ladies in our Com. with whom I am pleased Mrs. Lampton particularly. Nothing of interest occurred during the P.M. Camped at night. Here we found but little water & shortly after pitching our camp were joined by ten ^{flaming} Indians who had been into the Sioux country on a war & hunting expedition. They were not very welcome to us they seemed bent on staying. We were obliged to put the best face on the affair they were not very troublesome only annoying us a little by their begging. We tasted some of their pickled buffalo some of our Com. thought it excellent.

Fri June 4th Our Indian ~~visitors~~ left us with a friendly shake of the hand as their chief said to go away east to sleep while we were to go west quite warm during the noon & no water for cattle I rode on horseback part of the a.m.

Towards noon came to an excellent spring of water of which we drank heartily & then moved on two miles to a slough where we noon. During the P.M. passed over a rolling country part of the line through excellent pasture. From the ^{new} graves we infer the mortality from Cholera is increasing & quite a panic is seizing some of our Com. Capt Day is afraid of every Com. almost. Camp at night on a side hill good water but no wood. Jones came up with us & after some trouble got his other train along though the men stayed behind. I was glad to meet Mrs. D. again among strangers.

Sat June 5th The rest of the Com. D. left behind were on hand early & passed us & we moved on slowly as the road was dry, hilly & sandy. ^{Left the} at noon without water ^{having} passed the Com. who passed us this noon. Crossed Prairie Creek during the P.M. & had a hard shower of rain. Flopped in

camp on the Platt but as it was so far ahead
concluded to camp in good pasture & use rain
water some ~~ten~~ miles from river I quite sick
Sat. June 6th Morn cloudy with some rain Was
made unhappy by learning that the Com. intent
to travel tried every art of persuasion in my
power to induce our folks to remain in camp
but in vain this is the first of our Sabbath days
journeying may it be our last Reached Wood
river during the A.M. made a halt & hoped that
we should camp but it had been a general
camping for those having the cholera within
the last three days 49 having been consigned to
the cold grave thus forming a burial ground
in this lonely wild & as their clothing of which
the dead had been disrobed lay scattered about
it was thought unsafe to stop halted at
noon some 11 miles farther on & again tried every
means to induce our people to remain but to no
effect Shortly after starting on passed a camp
where death had been busy & all day graves newly
made were almost constantly in sight Camped

at night on a high ground a mile from the
north branch of Platt running around Grand Isle
I was sick. Here we were away from the
crowd & had good pasture. Down on the river
several were camped. A man having five
little ones had just lost his wife & they were
digging her grave & bringing the bark which
was to be her coffin the only material
that could here be obtained for that
purpose. Many here meet with such hasty
burials & are left far from home & friends
to moulder back to dust or be torn by wild beasts.
Mon. June 7th. A more fair. Constantly passing
graves or camps where disease is doing its work.
after going a short distance a messenger came
up to inform us that Mrs. Campton had
stopped & that her brother in law was very ill
with the cholera. Wilbur also stopped with her team.
Camped at noon without water & the cattle had but
little feed. very windy & I quite unwell. Ella has quite
a sudden attack of diarrhoea & we fear it will end as
many others have. Oh it would be hard to leave our
dear lovely one to moulder here in this damp waste.

the water is very poor but we are using it freely for he
in the ways prescribed by Water cure. Grass out
is good as formerly. Saw some teams from Hapierville
in the P.M. Took in some water at a branch of the
in a ravine & as the feed was poor went about a
mile & made a day camp. I am very tired & sad.
Thurs. June 8th. Thank God Ella is some better. Weather
little cooler.

the water is very poor but we are using it freely for he
in the ways prescribed by Water cure Grass not
is good as formerly saw some teams from Kapierville
in the P.M. Took in some water at a branch of R.R.
in a ravine & as the feed was poor went about a
mile & made a dry camp I very tired & sad
^{my} Tues. June 8th ^{my} Thank God Ella is some better Weather a
little cooler

Sun June 14th are as pleasantly situated as we
can expect to be in such a region as this are
away from the road far enough to escape the
dust & quite near the Platt had we good water
we should be quite comfortable but the water
is so muddy that we cannot see the bottom of
our cups when they are filled & that is rather
repulsive but a raging thirst compels us to
close our eyes & drink. Cleared some with
cream of tartar tried alum but it did not act
on the sediment. Some of the men were averse
to remaining in camp but Fannie's need more
decision than usual & compelled them to remain
they had a general bathing & cleansing time
& we all feel much better to get the dust
washed off if it is washed off with mud. The
men counted more than one hundred wagons
that passed during the day. I read my bible
some wrote some & enjoyed quite a pleasant
Sabbath here in the midst of confusion.

June 15th Traveled along the river bank most of
the morn & passed a great many waggons. got in
camp fell in with a young man that I know in Ill.
passed graves frequently but the mortality is not as
great as where we were last week. Crossed a
river quite wide but shallow & very clear but
warm & alkaline which rendered it unfit to
drink met some men on their way to the State
from Salt Lake Grove along close to the bank
of Platt most of the A.M. & then took a turn
over the hills & on to a prairie some distance
from river where we noosed a large grey wolf
crossed the road a short distance ahead which
gave me an opportunity to see an animal wh

June 17th Plondy. joined again by Webber. We left camp
early ascended some high hills crossed some clear
rivulets & had a fine view of the vale below. John &
Albert left the train & went back into the wilds to
hunt buffalo passed several waggons & saw some
very beautiful roses red & white. Flowers bloom as
freshly here as mid the haunts of men & by their
beauty smooth down the asperities that toil &
privations are raising in our natures. Traveled a long
way over a level extent of country & had an excellent road.
Heated at noon on a sort of pool near the Platt.
Had tolerable feed waited a long time for the hunt
& when they came found it very easy to dispose of the
game for they had had fishermen's luck & were well
tired. During the P.M. fell in with a thong & had much
trouble with a couple of colts behind us
frightened some of teams & off they went & all behind
joined in untill they came to one team & they were ready
to join in when John wheeled them against another waggon
& thus prevented an extensive race. Passed several
that were laying by with the sick & one train that had halted
in the road to witness the death of one of their men.
Drove a short distance & then turned from the road into
a wet sloughy place & camped. Some of the men swam
the Platt to hear if possible from Wilson's Co.

Fri June 18th, Rather cool & unpleasant but we rolled
out quite early & after crossing several small streams
& one large creek & passing several wagons got
in camp came to a very steep & difficult ascent but
after all alighting the cattle drew the wagons up with
difficulty. Found some flowers resembling the Hydrangea
& enjoyed my walk up the hill very much & more
especially the view from the top, of the Platt
valley for several miles. Halted at noon amid a throng
on the Platt & in consequence had rather poor feed
near 100 wagons in sight & many more a short
distance off. During the P.M. was constantly passing
those that sickness compelled to camp & almost
suffocated as we are with dust it will be strange
if we escape. The wagon wheels go in almost to the
hubs & every thing seems almost buried in dust.
Passed a large number of wagons & camped a
little apart from the throng & drove the cattle
on a small island in the river where they
had tolerable feed. Cooking with Buffalo chips
not very pleasant but glad to get them.

June 19th. Moon pleasant but very dry & a throng
behind & before stir up such clouds of dust that we
can scarcely see our head & even the soil being
alkaline makes the dust almost suffocating.
Passed several teams & came out ahead where we
could breathe freely again. So dry & barren is the country
here that we were obliged to travel till 2 O'clock P.M. to obtain
feed & water & then found good feed in a slough but
the water was not fit for the cattle to drink so
the men were compelled to drive them near two
miles to the river & this took up so much time
that we did not get on our way till 4 O'clock.
Took a back track & escaped the dust most of the
P.M. but fell in with the throng before camping.
Met some Men women & children from
Oregon on their way to the States each one astride
of a mule & without bonnets & so sunburnt that
they were hard looking specimens of humanity
they would not stop to answer questions so I
got on his mare & rode back with them. They say hard
times ahead. Camped with good feed but a long way
from water. Chips scarce but found a few to cook
a little supper after they came with water. Some Sioux
were camped near

Sunday June 20th Pleasant. As our camp was so far
from water considerable unwillingness was expressed
to our remaining, therefore concluded to travel till we
came to water I quite unwell & S. so sitting with gnats
that he looked like a fright & was scarce able to sit
up. We found traveling very tiresome & were glad to
find the river & good feed about 10 o'clock &
halt. Shortly after stopping I had a fainting spell
& was very unwell all day Mrs. Frances was very
attentive & done all she could for my comfort.
Day very hot & we were obliged to spread quilts
over our tents so hot were the suns rays that it
beat upon us almost melting the more fleshy.
S. obliged to cut off his whiskers so well did the
gnats pepper his face while there resided. I
saw better towards evening but unable to sit
up much. Ate a little supper & gained some
strength. Ella well & happy & when dressed and
washed clean by Mrs. F. was as sweet as ever.
Mrs. Webber & Mrs. Harrison came & sat by me
a long time in the P.M. Teams constantly
passing on both sides of the river.

Monday June 21st. Pleasant. Health improved
Had some delay on account of our horses going
off but found them & set off before 17. Found
quite unwell yet. Passed Capital Hills during the
A.M. Oh how I wished for an opportunity to sketch
them. Bathed at noon on the bank of Spring
& found tolerable feed. A company of Sioux Indians
were camped near preparing their jerk. Some of
our series called on them but I being quite feeble did
not go. Nothing of interest occurred during our P.M.
journey. Camped at night near the Platt grass rath-
er hot some men who were well acquainted with the
route camped with us. Eve rather cool & lowering.

June 22nd Set out early & was delighted by the
beauty of the snow & refreshed by the fragrance of
the air perfumed by the aroma of most beautiful
wild roses. Passed Blue rock & wound our way along
the hills bordering the Platt. The wild rose blooms
here in unrivalled beauty. Roads dry & dusty & the wind
blowing strongly made traveling unpleasant. Found
good grass but no water at noon. Shortly after our
P.M. march commenced reached the Platt & the first
timber for 200 miles. Some rain during the P.M. Camped
among thickly forested hills with poor feed but had a good fire
wrote a letter to Mary Anne.

Wed. June 23^d Morning rainy. Wrote a letter to father
Being near Ft Laramie husband rode ahead on
horseback wishing to cross the river & go to the
Ft. & great many teams laying up along the river
but we thought best to keep ours moving.
Reached a point opposite the Ft at 10 O'clock A.M.
& halted but a short time as there was no
feed for the cattle drove on 2 miles & then turned
our cattle out to where grass had once grown & where
their husband came up. In the P.M. commenced crossing
the Black Hills. Drove 10 miles & not being able to find
water camped in good grass at the foot of a mountain.
& after dark 2 of our men who had stopped at the Ft
came up glad to find a shelter in their own ^{drizzling rain} wagons from the
June 24th - Our road wound among and over high hills
reminiscent one of my early Eastern home some of the
choice flowers of Eastern gardens bloom in these solitudes.
Found a good spring of water at 9 O'clock of which humans &
cattle partook heartily & then on over rocks & hills through
scenery unrivaled for wildness & beauty. Raining P.M. Found
good grass & water for our use in a ^{hollow} rock & camped about 3 O'clock P.M.
Cooked & washed a little & retired very weary having
walked several miles in the former part of the day.

Thurs June 25th Very foggy but succeeded in finding our cattle & getting an early start I quite unwell. Our way as usual over hills & mountains but more water than formerly. During the A.M. came in sight of the Platt. Saw 3 elk & some of our men started in pursuit but they were too nimble for inexperienced marksmen. Turned our cattle out to sage but they preferred resting to partaking. After a short stop ^{we} yoked up & started. Shortly after crossing a creek a brisk shower of hail fell but we drove on over a truly desolate region without grass or water & late in the P.M. reached the Platt where we camped on its banks almost destitute of grass having been fed bare by former emigrants. But by driving our cattle out 2 miles & guarding them they found good pasture & were quite recruited. A time when we need strong confidence in God truly for all news is discouraging.

Sat June 26th Roads bad but better than we expected to find from what we had heard. Found considerable wild oats on which our cattle fed greedily at noon. Heard an account of the murder of a family which alarmed some of our company. Road joined the river 3 times during the P.M. & at night we camped among the bare hills after descending a very steep hill in sight of the river. I quite unwell but able to sit up. The prospect before our cattle is rather ~~gloomy~~

June 27th In consequence of being where we have no feed
for our cattle we travel today through contrabands
any inclination. Our way lay over hills & through
deep valleys for some 4 or 5 miles when we again joined
the river watered our cattle & then on till noon when
we turned the cattle out to feed on prickly pears but they
disdained the repast. During the P.M. we came in sight of
the river several times & at 4 P.M. finding good feed we
camped ^{near} the Bluff.

June 28th Country barren but little grass. Met some
packers from California who say feed is poor ahead.
A little before noon reached the 1st river ferry.
Halted & turned our cattle out to browse a short
distance above the ferry in a pleasant grove of cotton
wood trees. Some disagreement between Francis & 2
if his men bids fair to breed a rupture. Way up a
long hill & through deep ravines till night when we
camped on a dry hillside with but little grass.

June 29th Rolled out of camp rather late. J. & his
men having some matters to adjust. Left our
store this morn fearing that our team would
give out. Windy & unpleasant. At noon the fog ^{thick}
to use some violent measures to bring it to his team.

which caused considerable excitement but he was
prevented & we hope for a fair adjustment of the
difficulty. Reached the 2nd ferry about 4 O'clock P.M.
most of the grass fed off & we were again obliged
to turn our hungry cattle out to poor feed & make
our bed in the sand with prickly pears for bedding.
June 30th Frances turned off two of his men &
a long time was spent in settling up the affair
& dividing provision but all was satisfactorily arranged
& about 8 O.C. we reached the upper ferry & took
leave of the Platt. Here we fell in with a throng
& it does seem that all the people in the States are
en route for the Pacific Coast. Were informed that we
should not have good water for 23 miles so we took
a bag full aboard & commenced climbing the hill
before us Uphill all the A.M. & at noon but little
feed came to the Mineral Springs about 3 O.C. P.M.
hurried our cattle on to Avenue rock where we
arrived about sunset halted, milked our cows
ate our supper fed our cattle some meat & offered
them some of the water we had brought with us &
then set out for Clear Spring Creek 6 miles distant
passed the Alkali Swamps at dusk and hurried on

cattle on. Reached the creek between 7 & 10
O'clock in the eve & found water but our horses
our cattle were hungry & Bushland & Sanders
were obliged to travel considerable to keep
them together. We had but little sleep
during the night.

July 1st started without our breakfast & hurried
on to Millers Spring to find feed for our cattle
found it to be a general stopping place. Concluded
to drive our cattle over the bluffs to feed &
winter here the while. I found an old tree
standing on the bank made a fire in it &
eaten our breakfast. I tried to a number
of things but had no success. Attention was
called the time till 12 O'Clock when the men
came with the cattle & we prepared to start
some noon on the 1st but we made no way
on. Sanders & camped at Millers Creek. I went
about 10 miles and a little start owing to our cattle
having strayed a mile or two back in search of
feed. We are driving the cattle with a man on the
back of a mule who has spent some time in
the same way. The cattle are not very tame.

Crossed Greasewood Creek & after traveling over
some 4 miles halted & fed though we found
rather poor picking During the P.M. the water pass
was strongly impregnated with Alkali & one
small lake held in solution pure salarates which
had crystalized in large quantities & was equal
to the best manufactured article Independence
Rock was passed about 4 O'clock & most of our
company ascended it but a severe gale of wind
prevented my standing on the top though I
had a strong inclination to do so Near the
Rock we crossed the Sweet Water a swift
flowing river & though it was time to camp
were obliged to go farther to get grass we finally
camped near Devil's Gate though we found but
poor feed

July 3rd Mrs. H. & myself walked on ahead of
the team to see the Gate & found it one of
Nature's grandest efforts but time now will
not admit of a description We hurried away
to overtake our train & came in the road just
as they came along Traveled about 6 miles & camped
to rest our cattle they having become worn

some of the ~~people~~ during the Fall. I did not quite a large
washing & retired very uneasy.

July 4. Woke this morning quite sick & was confined
to my bed most of the day. Much wind & some
rain. Towards evening felt somewhat better.

July 5th Very cold & windy. Ice in our washbasin
this morn. & snow on the mountain so
cold that I was obliged to travel with our wagon covered
closed therefore had but little chance for observation.
One of our oxen so lame that at noon we were
obliged to turn him out & go on with 3 yoke
camped & night on the Sweet Water. Grass very
scarce Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Tibber, & Mr. Risby sick.

July 6th Started early & were joined by Mr. Finch
& family who formed quite a pleasant addition to
our company. Forded the Sweet Water three times
during the A.M. Roads rough & fording difficult though
not very deep. halted at noon on the bank of the
river & while the men were driving the cattle to water
a horseman came riding up with the intelligence that 300
Indians disputed their passing a gap some three miles
ahead all was now consternation & in 40
men eager for an onset were making on clearing.

loading guns were the pastime of the noon &
when we again set out guns & ammunition
were all in order but when we reached the
place of rendezvous the Indians were where Paul
flea was (not there) But a despatch from Cal.
to the States but had not time to write a
letter Camped on the Sweetwater with a throng
of emigrants & were visited by large hds of Indians
all friendly. Snow in sight & night cold
July 7th Morning cold. Snow capped hills appear
shaded wore a cloak & walked to keep warm
Traveled in company with a large Co. from Co.
halted at noon at the ice springs where we found
excellent feed but an alkaline appearance had fright-
ened away the people. Shortly after setting out again
the rain came in torrents & then hail & the
drivers were drenched thoroughly. Cold & windy
during the P.M. & roads hilly Camped at night
on the Sweetwater

July 8th Cool. Our way over mountains & hills
Crossed the Sweetwater River during the A.M.
So cold that we have the wagon cover down

halted at noon on the branch of river where
we found some nice strawberries & gooseberries
Several Indians came into camp. During the P.M.
found very heavy roads walked most of the P.M. up
the mountains & at night camped on Strawberry Creek
where we found poor picking for our hungry
cattle

July 9th Walked a long way but about 11 O'clock the
wind began to blow & the remainder of the day
was very boisterous. Passed some snowbanks
halted at noon at Willow Creek but little feed
for our hungry cattle. P.M. cold & boisterous. Drove to
the last crossing of S.M. & then halted till
husband rode off & found feed. Drove 2 miles
from road & camped. Tolerable good feed.

Sat. July 10th Some delay occasioned by the search
for cattle gave me time to take a short walk out to
the verge of the rocky ravine through which the S. River
flows. So far down is the bed of the river that the cattle
& men while fording it looked like children & calves.
Sublime grandeur is constantly presenting itself in
Nature among these Western wilds. All in order we
we started about 8 O'clock & walked a long way

the air being cool & bracing & weather fine 20 minutes
past 11 P.M. reached the South Pass of the Rocky Mts.
Should not have dreamed of this being the gateway
for the immense throng going Westward had it not
been pointed out so level & free from rocky cliffs was
the surrounding region The road too was smooth &
gravelly altogether unlike what a traveler expects
to find Gathered some bits of quartz as mementoes
of the hour & hurried on glad that so much of
our journey was performed Halted & fed about 1/2 a
mile beyond part of the Co. drove on to the Pacific
springs In the P.M. drove on to the Springs where it
was thought best to remain till noon as we should
not find water again until we reached the land
20 miles ahead Around here would have been grass
had ^{not} so many made this a halting place as it was
feed was scarce & a throng of cattle on the ground
to be fed Water good & plenty The earth or sod seems
to rest on a miry foundation & shook beneath the
tread Some trouble to keep the cattle from getting
sloughed so anxious were they to get the grass on
the miry ground Had pot pie for supper Stewed
some apples & boiled some rice

Sun. July 11th Think the danger to which the cattle are exposed scarcity of feed & the throng constantly arriving makes it necessary to travel. Morning severely cold but we were up early & started having a long days drive ahead. Were joined here by Maxwell from Mo. Very unpleasant all day. Stopped at noon long enough to eat a lunch but as there was no feed did not unhitch the cattle. Sad way for me to spend my Sabbath. Shortly after starting on came to the Salt Lake road some indecision as to the best route whether we cross the desert by the old route or go the cut off. Concluded to take the S.L. road & take the cut off. Reached the Little Sandy at sunset but a large Co. being ahead of us we were a long time waiting for a chance to cross. Meantime husband who had been looking for feed returned with the intelligence that but little was to be found & that two miles from the road. We went there & camped for the night.

Mon. July 12th Started early & as the way was rough we all walked out to the road & I assisted to drive the oxen. Crossed the Big Sandy about noon & as the cattle had been without drink since the eve before they drank heartily.

The river here about 7 rods wide & more about a mile & finding tolerable feed killed & fed our cattle. Made a short drive in the P.M. & camped about two miles from river I made a pot pie for supper which was so good that I made himself sick eating it Ground some & nice bunch grass

July 13th Very warm but walked some during the A.M. came to the river during the A.M. where we watered our cattle about noon a storm of wind & rain came on which made dining out in the open air out of the question so we hurried into the waggon where we despatched our lunch while our cattle were cropping the scattered spears of dry grass by the road side During the P.M. came to the river again & watered our cattle as we should be without water for 26 miles took some aboard & here left the great S. Lake road & turned up the hill. Went 2 miles on the cut off & Mr. Finch who had went ahead to find grass designated this as a camping place. We here found good grass & a shower of rain helped our cattle very much. I made a minute pudding for supper & boiled some rice for J. who was quite unwell

July 14th Day cool which was favorable for our long drive across the desert which was a desert still though much shortened by the cut off just discovered & as yet a new track. Had good feed for our cattle but for want of water they were not much benefitted. Had a long drive & anxiously looked forward hoping from every hill top to see Green river. But did not reach there until after sunset & night heartily did the beasts & humans partake of its waters. I was not very well & such a ^{blood thirsty} swarm of musketoes as here assailed us I hope never to see again. The cattle here found pretty good feed.

Thurs. July 15 I quite sick considerable fever Mrs. Harrison helped me take care of Ella. Were ferried over the river by some men who had stopped here to make the dimes during the A.M. Here Gale left us having bought a share in the boat. Samuel traded off his watch & fifty dollars for a yoke of cattle which we began to need. Drove out from the river 3 miles & camped thinking it best to recruit our cattle on the fine grass which we found here on a small creek. I quite sick I had the mountain fever & the diarrhoea. Rather hard times for us Mrs. F assisted me to bathe which produced a good effect but to lie in the tent tormented by musketoes far from

pleasant. & my little one uncared for almost disheartened
me & part of my time was spent in weeping which was
far from salutary

Fri. July 16th Still in camp & some better I must
say better but mean to be more cheerful which they
say is necessary for my speedy recovery ate a little
breakfast & feel some benefit from it but am fatigued
by the care of Ella & all hands away from camp washing
I bought some fish which he cooked nicely for my
supper & after eating felt much better & storm of
wind & rain during the eve

Sat. July 17th I quite unwell yet but some better
a comfortable resting place was made for me in the
wagon & as I thought myself able to ride we broke up
camp starting with Finch & Maxwell who have
fallen in with a Co. for Cal. & concluded to go with
them Found the road quite rough over the hills
& creeks during the day & at noon was very much
fatigued & unable to eat, ^{lay on the ground while the men ate} as we had no water made
but a short halt among the hills Albert brought in some
snow which was very refreshing Very high mountains
to go over On one summit found a spring of ^{excellent} water
of which we all drank freely. Descended some

Hills that seemed almost perpendicular. Camped
at the foot of one on Crow Creek I quite sick
when we stopped very sick during the eve
Sun. July 18th I quite sick but some better water
scarce but conclude to remain in camp. An
Irish family for Cal. camped with us the man
sick I considerable better in the eve. Oh how
unlike a Sabbath at home is this tumult &
confusion of coming & going.
Mon. July 19 Morn. Cool broke up camp early
passed and fell in with a great many wagons
during the day. In crossing a creek at a very
steep place a carriage was overturned which
created quite a sensation but the occupants a lady
& three children had alighted & were safe on terra firma
therefore no injury was done except the cushions soiled.
Mr. Gilliam joined us & halted with us to feed
by the roadside I some better. Passed a trading
post where a large number of Indians were
camped. Forded a large creek ^{where we took in water} after which we
ascended a very long steep hill. Went two miles
& camped a few rods from the road & had good
feed I able to get supper baked potatoes & fried ham.

July 20th Very pleasant Road good for several
miles during the A.M. came to grove in which was
a spring of pure cool water Took in some water
& left John behind hunting Some long hills to
ascend on the tops plenty of snowbanks Passed
through a beautiful grove of fir & spruce another
steep hill & then down almost perpendicular
descents Took off all the cattle but one yoke
then hitched one yoke behind to hold back
& drove the cows loose & by holding up each other
wagons in train all got down safe though the
descent was dangerous & halted to feed & water
on a creek at the foot of the hill John came
up bringing a cow that one of the Co. had lost &
a calf which another Co. gave him. But little feed
so we hurried on over precipitous & long hills most
of the P.M. findings ^{now} then a little water One of our cows
very lame About sunset camped on a little creek since
a Wis. Co. Some Indians came into camp Killed the
calf & divided it among the Co. He had a hind quarter
of which I cooked some for supper & being so long fed
on salt meat this was a delicacy. But little grass & lots of
Indians which made it necessary to drive up the cattle
& guard them during the

Wed. July 21st Left camp early & passed several yet in
camp. Among others three old maids from one of
the Southern States having their carriage negro
waiting, maid, cook, driver &c. on their way
to the Golden Land. Reached Bear river during the
a.m. crossed Blue river by a toll bridge kept by
an emigrant then on to a small creek with steep
banks. Then struck Bear river & traveled along its
fertile banks with mountains of sandstone of gaudy
hue to our right. Halted at noon on the bank of
the river & found good feed & had a general
bathing time. During the P.M. crossed some small
streams & Thomas Fork which had a toll bridge
over it up some steep ascents & then down
camped at night in a deep glen. Several other
camped near I baked a piece of meat in Willow
stove. Our cattle had tolerable good bunch
grass to feed upon some trouble to find good
water but finally at some distance from camp
found a nice spring plenty of water in the
slough near but the cattle had trodden it all
full of dirt & then it was stagnant besides
the men have to guard the cattle.

Thurs. July 22nd On march early & about 1/2 mile from camp
crossed a little pebble bottomed rivulet of crystalline character
Nature here has her charms as well as in more frequent
places after crossing the streamlet soon began to ascend
a hill whose top seemed high in air I walked up the
hill though unable to do so could not bear to see the
oxen draw so hard they had a long tedious time but
finally all stood on the summit & looked down on
a scene passing lovely But the descent to be made
filled us with unpleasant emotions appearing almost
perpendicular I took my little one out of the wagon
& walked down with ^{her} hardly hoping to see oxen &
wagon safe at the bottom but they all descended safely
though it required much care & manageable cattle.
came near the river but thinking the road went nearer
we passed on & had to travel till P.M. before we could find
water for the thirsty cattle & then had to drive them
a long way from the road so warm that a shelter from
the sun is pleasant During the P.M. crossed some most
beautiful streams of water & at night camped on the
bank of a pretty little brook. Some parties camped
with us I made a jostle for supper

July 23^d Pleasant & scenery beautiful the life of
of red sand stone contrasting richly with the green
pastures of the vales crossed some most beautiful
streams of crystalline clearness during the afternoon
& at noon halted by an excellent spring of water
Drove the cattle $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile to the bottom land
where they had good feed Shortly after resuming
our journey came to a trading post

July 23rd Pleasant & scenery beautiful the high bluffs
of red sand stone contrasting richly with the green
pastures of the vales crossed some most beautiful
streams of crystalline clearness during the A.M.
& at noon halted by an excellent spring of water
Drove the cattle $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile to the bottom land
where they had good feed Shortly after resuming
our journey came to a trading post